

## Springfield's Neighborhood Watch Program

### Phase 1

Citizens attend one of various training sessions held throughout the year. This four hour course is designed to make each citizen better prepared to deal with crime in their community, whether they are part of a watch group or not.

### Phase 2

Citizens complete a self assessment of their homes, making improvements that help reduce their chances of being burglarized, and participate in Operation Identification.

### Phase 3

Citizens organize to form an active Neighborhood Watch Group, meeting minimum requirements to receive the new signs.

## Neighborhood Watch Signs

The signs were designed to show that Neighborhood Watch is about the citizens and their relationship with the police department, not the sign itself. When people see this sign in your neighborhood they will know that citizens there are **trained, organized, and active**.

These signs are bought with seized drug money and will be provided free of charge by the Springfield police department to groups who meet the requirements. If a group does not remain active the signs will be removed from the neighborhood.

**ARE  
YOU  
A PART OF  
THE WATCH?**

Visit the Springfield Police Department's website or the Crime Prevention Unit Facebook page to see a list of the locations, dates, and times of the Neighborhood Watch training program.



Crime Stoppers is a way to report suspicious activity anonymously.  
You can call 24 hours a day.  
(417) 869-TIPS

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH



**SEE SOMETHING? SAY SOMETHING.  
SPRINGFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT**

# SPRINGFIELD POLICE

CRIME PREVENTION UNIT

(417) 874-2113

[www.springfieldmo.gov/spd](http://www.springfieldmo.gov/spd)

## What is Neighborhood Watch?

Neighborhood Watch is a voluntary program organized by concerned citizens to reduce crime in their communities. Working with local law enforcement agencies, citizens can learn when and how to report suspicious activities, assist in property identification, conduct home security surveys, and implement home security measures and precautions.

The following is a list of common traits that successful Neighborhood Watch programs share:

- People feel a sense of ownership with the program. They have invested their time and energy in it and it belongs to them.
- Law Enforcement is seen as an indispensable partnership.
- Citizens see the program as their own responsibility. They choose to get involved in all stages of planning, from implementation and evaluation to maintenance.
- The program addresses the local concerns of the citizens such as domestic violence, abandoned cars, vacant lots filled with trash, drugs and gang activity.

## Don't Wait Until It's Too Late

No matter where you live, you can still be at risk for facing a crime threat. Early detection is the best way to prevent the onset of bigger problems. It's a good idea to get into action at the first sight of trouble. A rash of break-ins, people loitering, graffiti and abandoned autos are all possible clues that could lead to trouble.

Paying attention to small problems ahead of time can save you from having to face larger and more difficult ones down the road.

Any resident of a community can join a Neighborhood Watch. Even those who do not own a home can get involved.

## Citizen Training

Springfield's Neighborhood Watch program all starts with a comprehensive citizen's training class. Attending this class helps citizens:

- Better understand how the police department operates
- Become better witnesses
- Better recognize and report suspicious activity
- Make their home less attractive to criminal activity

Even if you do not want to join or form a Neighborhood Watch group, the initial training session will help you become more prepared to deal with crime in your community and better protect yourself and your home from crime.

**"He who does not prevent a crime when he can, encourages it."**

**Lucius Annaeus Seneca**

**SEE  
SOMETHING?  
SAY  
SOMETHING!**

## Reluctance and Fear

Many people are afraid to fight back against crime for fear of retaliation by gangs or other criminals. There also are those who either don't care or think they can't make a difference. However, there are some ways to overcome these kinds of roadblocks.

**First**, realize there is strength in numbers. An organization of people who join together can show its commitment without having to be singled out.

**Second**, know that there are many ways to report criminal activity to law enforcement anonymously.

**Lastly**, take control over the situation and find the most comfortable starting place for everyone involved.

Fear of crime can hinder participation and deprive you of volunteers. Accurate information can dispel rumors and aid in getting people's fears under control.